

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed:

- 1 1. A mechanism for coupling a first fracture fixation implant to a second
2 fracture fixation implant, comprising:
3 a body member receivable in the first implant, the body member including a single
4 prong extending from the body member for contacting a surface of the second implant to
5 substantially prevent rotation of the second implant with respect to the first implant; and
6 a drive member for moving the body member toward the second implant.
- 1 2. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein:
2 the single prong defines a first engagement surface;
3 the second implant defines a second engagement surface; and
4 the first and second engagement surfaces interact to substantially prevent rotation of
5 the second implant with respect to the first implant.
- 1 3. The mechanism of claim 2, wherein the body member is located in a
2 longitudinal channel in the first implant, and the single prong occupies a space defined
3 between the channel and second engagement surface.
- 1 4. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the second implant defines a
2 longitudinal axis, and the single prong limits sliding of the second implant with respect to
3 the first implant along the longitudinal axis.
- 1 5. The mechanism of claim 4, wherein the second implant defines an
2 engagement surface having a first end and a second end longitudinally spaced from the first
3 end, with stops formed adjacent at least one of the ends for contacting the single prong to
4 limit sliding of the second implant along the longitudinal axis.
- 1 6. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the second implant extends through a
2 bore in the first implant.
- 1 7. The mechanism of claim 6, wherein the first implant defines a first
2 longitudinal axis and the second implant defines a second longitudinal axis, and the bore
3 orients the first longitudinal axis at a predetermined angle with respect to the second
4 longitudinal axis.

1 8. The mechanism of claim 7, wherein the predetermined angle substantially
2 matches the neck/shaft angle of a femur.

1 9. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the body member includes a
2 substantially cylindrical portion defining a longitudinal axis of the body member, and the
3 single prong extends in a direction substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.

1 10. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the body member includes at least one
2 tab for engaging a corresponding groove on an inner surface of the first implant.

1 11. The mechanism of claim 10, wherein the at least one tab engages the groove
2 to substantially prevent rotation of the body member within the first implant.

1 12. The mechanism of claim 10, wherein the body member includes a
2 substantially cylindrical portion having a lower surface, and the at least one tab engages the
3 groove to maintain a space between the lower surface and the second implant.

1 13. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the drive member is connected to the
2 body member.

1 14. The mechanism of claim 13, wherein the drive member is rotatable with
2 respect to the body member.

1 15. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the drive member threadably engages
2 the first implant.

1 16. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein the drive member is receivable within
2 the first implant.

1 17. The mechanism of claim 1, further comprising an end cap attachable to the
2 first implant.

1 18. The mechanism of claim 17, wherein the end cap captivates the drive
2 member and the body member within the first implant.

1 19. The mechanism of claim 17, wherein a cannulation extends through the end
2 cap for receiving a guide wire.

1 20. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the first
2 implant for receiving a guide wire.

1 21. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the drive
2 member for receiving a guide wire.

1 22. The mechanism of claim 1, wherein a cannulation extends through the body
2 member for receiving a guide wire.

1 23. A mechanism for coupling a first fracture fixation implant to a second
2 fracture fixation implant, comprising:
3 a body member receivable in the first implant, the body defining a longitudinal axis
4 of the mechanism;
5 a first prong extending from the body member for contacting a first surface of the
6 second implant, the first prong defining a first prong length along the longitudinal axis;
7 a second prong extending from the body member for contacting a second surface of
8 the second implant, the second prong defining a second prong length along the longitudinal
9 axis; and
10 a drive member for pressing the body member toward the second implant;
11 wherein the second prong length is substantially longer than the first prong length.

1 24. The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the first and second prongs are
2 substantially parallel to one another.

1 25. The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the second prong length is substantially
2 zero.

1 26. The mechanism of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first and second
2 prongs contacts the second implant to substantially prevent rotation of the second implant
3 with respect to the first implant.

1 27. The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the second implant defines a
2 longitudinal axis, and at least one of the first and second prongs contacts the second implant
3 to substantially limit sliding of the second implant along the longitudinal axis.

1 28. The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the second implant extends through a
2 bore in the first implant.

1 29. The mechanism of claim 28, wherein the first implant defines a first
2 longitudinal axis, the second implant defines a second longitudinal axis, the bore orients the
3 first longitudinal axis at a predetermined angle with respect to the second longitudinal axis,
4 and the predetermined angle substantially matches the neck/shaft angle of a femur.

1 30. The mechanism of claim 23, wherein the body member includes at least one
2 tab for engaging a corresponding groove on an inner surface of the first implant.

1 31. The mechanism of claim 30, wherein the at least one tab engages the groove
2 to substantially prevent rotation of the body member within the first implant.

1 32. The mechanism of claim 30, wherein the body member includes a
2 substantially cylindrical portion having a lower surface, and the at least one tab engages the
3 groove to maintain a space between the lower surface and the second implant.

1 33. The mechanism of claim 30, further comprising an end cap attachable to the
2 first implant.

1 34. The mechanism of claim 33, wherein the end cap captivates the drive
2 member and the body member within the first implant.